How a broken nose, a shaman’s brew, and a little light dusting may point the way to enlightenment…

ABOUT THE BOOK:

The Swordmaster’s Apprentice is the story of Edward Burke’s quirky quest of self-discovery. Turning his back on the excesses of London in the credit boom, he sets out to study with some of the world’s greatest masters of martial arts. His search for growth through the fighting arts will take him to the academy of Bruce Lee’s most famous student, a traditional dojo in Japan, ancient Buddhist temples and a scorching capoeira roda in Brazil. But his greatest challenge will be his time training as the live-in student of the legendary Chiba Sensei – Japanese swordsman, Zen monk and master of aikido.

Far from the rarefied world of high finance, he soon finds himself scrubbing the floors of Chiba Sensei’s dojo, bruised, scared and exhausted from long days of punishing training. But in the intensity of the training and the formidable presence of his fearsome, charismatic master there may just be something that will make this odd pilgrimage worthwhile.

Told with a wry humour, woven with insights, and populated with colourful characters, this is the joyful tale of a year of pain, suffering and menial labour, undertaken for the love of movement and the privilege of learning from the masters.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Edward Burke was born in England, grew up in South Africa, and was educated in South Africa and France. Originally trained as an anthropologist, he has spent most of his career advising companies around the world on corporate strategy. He has trained martial arts since childhood.

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